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L.A. Superior Court doesn't have to reopen shuttered courthouses, appeals panel rules



By MAURA DOLAN SEP 08, 2015 | 2:04 PM |





Protesters march in 2013 to oppose the closure of courthouses in Los Angeles County. (Genaro Molina / Los Angeles Times)



Federal judges are barred from ordering Los Angeles Superior Court to reopen closed courthouses, a U.S. appeals panel decided Tuesday.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals threw out a lawsuit brought by nonprofit groups seeking to restore far-flung courthouses that hear landlord efforts to evict tenants, usually because of unpaid rent.

"Out of respect for the independence of state judiciaries, a federal court cannot substitute its judgment for [the L.A. Superior Court's] resource allocation choices," Judge Jacqueline H. Nguyen, an Obama appointee, wrote for a three-judge panel.

The 9th Circuit nevertheless agreed that "two recessions and a decade of budget cuts have dramatically transformed the Los Angeles County Superior Court," the largest trial court in the country.



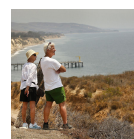
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